

### **Do inmates have access to the courts?**

Inmates in the custody of the Division of Prisons will be given reasonable access to the courts. Inmates may hire their own attorney, represent themselves in legal matters before the courts, or request assistance from the North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.

When an inmate is required for trial in any court within the State of North Carolina, the district attorney prosecuting the charges may make a written request called a Solicitor's Request, or a presiding judge may issue an order called a Writ of Habeas Corpus to the Division of Prisons for the inmate to be present in court to stand trial or act as a witness. If such a request is made, the Division of Prisons is responsible to transfer the inmate to court.

Inmates who have a detainer filed against them by a court in the State of North Carolina may request a speedy trial by completing the forms that are provided by the Combined Records Section of the Department of Correction. Inmates with a detainer filed against them by a court outside the State of North Carolina may request a speedy trial by writing to the Interstate Agreement Administrator, Extradition Office, 2020 Yonkers Road, MSC 4224, Raleigh, NC 27699-4224.

All other questions about pending charges, court dates, etc. should be addressed to the Clerk of Court in the county and/or state where the charges were filed.